"Joe Hockey Plans – Vision For Australia"

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Greetings Fellow Australians

First off I would like to thank

"Factor X Boys" in Washington for leaking certain information in the last few weeks and months exposing the "Evil Entities" behind the scenes plans, goals, ambitions, aims for us all on planet earth.

And before any Police, Military or Intelligence Agencies get it into their thick heads, they will try and track <u>"Factor X Boys"</u> down, or send Police – Intelligence Agencies around to arrest me, torture me to give them more information about this **"Shadow Group In Washington DC"**

Forget it I am only a bum, my knowledge of this shadow group in Washington DC comes from many years ago talking to a few Police, Military and Intelligence people, that such a group was formed.

Cheney" had a hand in sacking allot of CIA, FBI, NSA, US Military people and replacing them with people loyal to "Mother Israeli" – "Israeli First People" – or complete "Sell Out – Traitors" to the "Evil – Nasty Entity" sweeping the World and trying to form "A One World Order Government" owned and controlled by the Zionist Bankers with the Rothschild's and the other 7 Jewish Families sitting at the Top of the Pyramid.



And America with that snappy little dog Israel giving orders, Running this "One World Government"

Allot of these <u>"Factor X People"</u> left for South America ready to come back and fight another day, some stayed behind to fight for one reason or another they refused to be pushed out and leave their country.

And took their <u>"Oath"</u> very seriously to <u>"Defend United</u>

<u>States of America"</u> against ALL invaders from outside or within.

This of course includes International Zionist Bankers, and the Zionist Jews who secretly had been planning to infiltrate, invade, threaten, blackmail, commit assassinations so they could take control of America, and use The United States of America for their own <u>"Sheer Greedy Purposes"</u> and America's Military to do their bidding.

Well that is exactly what they have achieved now, also control over other Western Governments, Militaries and Intelligence Agencies.

Ready to use these Police, Military and Intelligence Agencies to enforce their <u>"One World Government"</u> upon the Whole Planet and People of the World.

So thank you to <u>"Factor X People"</u> for a story I read recently and after joining the dots together I was able to work out policy behind the scenes here by both political parties of what they have install for Australians.

"Joe Hockey Plans – Vision For Australia"

But first a bit of back ground information for people.



"Joe Hockey Plans – Vision For Australia"



The Hon Joe Hockey MP Shadow Treasurer, Federal Member for North Sydney, NSW, Australia. "Uncle Tom (Dressed As A Whiteman) Denier of his Aboriginal Culture & Heritage".

In a picture above dressed like the "Good Will Fairy"



And this picture after caught out by

the Controlled Australian Media, lying pushing bullshit fairy tail stories.



And this taken from the National Press Club Luncheon, what is the old saying about politicians? "When they open their mouths – they lie" Looking at this picture and his face it tells the story "Joe is making up lies as he goes"

Second Culprit in the **Liberal / National Party Plans – Vision** For Australia is the following person.



The Hon Julie Bishop MP

Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs. Shadow Minister for Trade, Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Federal Member for Curtain WA.

Nick Name: - "Clarence"

Above picture: - taken from an interview with the Controlled Mainstream Media and she was asked a question and **Duhhhhhh?** She didn't know the answer, instead of saying sorry I don't know the answer I will research and get you one, she just looks dumb founded standing there like a **"Complete Dope"** saying nothing.



Julie Bishop in the women's toilets at Parliament House practising her lines before giving an interview to the Media.



Julie Bishop in Parliament

Canberra Act, people are asking I can hear why do you call her <u>"Clarence"</u> for?

Remember the Hollywood Show called "Clarence The Cross Eyed Lion"? Well when you get up close to her she is "Cross Eyed" it will send you bonkers looking at her for too long?

Hey sorry for being honest, but it's the truth people.



And this picture from Parliament making "Cat

Claw" signs at Prime Minister Julia Gillard.



And this picture another being

interviewed by the Controlled Australian Mainstream Media, she failed to answer even basic questions put to her, she <u>"Stands there like a Big"</u> Dope looking into thin Air".

"Joe Hockey Plans – Vision For Australia"

I hope everybody like the background information and it gave them a bit of a laugh at the politicians for a change.

Australia is being used as a <u>"Test Case"</u> to see if the plans will work, and if successful will be rolled out all over Australia, and will be implemented in America the roll out will go ahead.

"To Be Or Not To Be" – "Believe It Or Not"

Let me explain two things before we read on.

1) This information is for people already awake, who have woken up, if people reading this are still "Brainwashed" – "Under CIA MK Ultra Mind Control" and just want to sling off "Oh That Is All Conspiracy Theory"

Find its alright by me, you just keep believing the lying Mainstream Media and think both major political parties in all our countries are honest representing the people.

You keep arguing in Chat Rooms, Forums and Tea Party Meetings **Democrat vs Republican**, the following is meant for people awake, who are now waking up, or investigating asking questions about to be woken up.

2) Some people call everything <u>"Conspiracy Theory",</u> nutters, Tin Foil Hatters, No we are just well read, informed researchers and investigators.

And the part of the deduction of seeing through, exposing, and looking at the bigger picture of things, connecting the Dots together is we read history.

History



- A) "The Powers of B" that control the present and future and also the past and re-write it history.
- B) History is a very valuable thing when determining if there is secret plans, agendas, goals, by reading History of what the <u>"Powers of B"</u> have done in the past and used it against society and the human race, we can then see and apply that history to the <u>"Powers of B"</u> plans for the future.

"Joe Hockey Plans – Vision For Australia"

This is Opposition Leader **Tony Abbott**, Shadow Treasurer **Joe Hockey** and Deputy Opposition Leader **Julie Bishop** plans and visions for Australia believe it or not?

Bringing Back the 19th Century Corporations Prison Manufacturing – Production By Forced Slave Prison Labour

The test case being played out now to see how successful the scheme will be before Australian wide roll out happening is over in Western Australia by Premier Collin Barnet and his Liberal / National Parties Coalition Government.

Soon after winning the State Election over in Western Australia he did two things.

- 1) Announced the building of three (3) New Prisons in Western Australia.
- 2) Next thing he did was to pick Laws on the Statue Books which could easiely be picked on and changed and increased the <u>"Fines & Jail Sentences"</u> for Breaking those Laws.

Information Clearing House

NEWS YOU WON'T FIND ON CNN OR FOXNEWS

 Now if your caught with 1 Gram = \$20 Deal of Dope it's a \$1,000 Fine in Court, plus increase Court Fee's / Chargers

Or

12 Months in Prison for the offence of having 1 Gram x \$20 Deal.

Please consider people the State Of Western Australia Community Crime Figures?

Has Western Australia Crime figures risen that much? That 3 New Prisons need to be built in that State?

NO!

Please also consider the old Prisons in use there has been **NO** Announcement of closing these Old Prisons at all, so they will operate and stay open on top of these 3 New Prisons opening and operating.

And where are the Statistic's that Community Crime is going to go up in the future justifying the need for these Prisons to be built and the ones currently operating?

Right again there is No Stats or Justifying the announcement of Collin Barnet (Neo – Con) (Zio – Nazi Fascist) Government building 3 New Prisons unless there is a secret agenda, plan, goal, ambition long term for these Prisons.

And remember this is a <u>(Must Remember)</u> these Prisons wont be State Controlled Run and Operated but run and controlled "**Privately**" by a Private Corporation.

So that all being said what possible reason is there, or secret agenda is there to build 3 New Prisons in Western Australia, sign them over to Private Corporation to run and operate?

To find out the reason why, we have to go looking in the past and we will find the following.

Getting Paid 93 Cents a Day in America?

Corporations Bring Back the 19th Century

And by reading the past of how America is a World Economy because it was built upon a successful Prison System with the State (Government) criminalizing everything and anything, thus selling the citizens into (Prison Slavery) to work for the jail and the operators of the jail.

Who will sell the prisoner labour services to the Corporations cheaply some of these <u>"Fortune 500 – 1,000 Companies"</u> will buy the labour off the Corporation running the Prison paying the prisoners slave labour rates as little as 90 cents a day wages.

<u>Terrorism & Patriot Act, Military</u> <u>Commission Act, NDAA Laws All Have One</u> Purpose

This is the most despicable – herenderous crime out the State (**Government**) could or would criminalize everything and anything against the very citizens who elect them to Parliament to run the State and Country, for these same politicians to make secret deals with Private Corporations to run the Prison and make money out of.

Then let the Prison sell the Prisoners Labour inside to Prison to other Corporations to make money off <u>"Creating, Producing, Manufacturing Their Goods, Products and Services"</u>

To enrich the Corporations and make profits off.



This is so <u>"Sinister and Evil"</u> <u>"Sheer Down Right Evil"</u> its mind boggling, but its all true and shows up the <u>"Evilness"</u> of Uncontrolled Capitalism.

Terrorism & Patriot Act, Military Commission Act, NDAA Laws All Have One Purpose

With all these Terrorism type Laws being pass very few of these Laws have been used upon people carrying out Terrorist Acts.

Mostly they have been used against <u>"Whistle Blowers, 911</u> <u>Truthers, Internet Web Site Owners, Bloggers, Truthers, Researchers & Investigators and Independent Journalist"</u>

So to go in search what all these Laws are really about we have to look back 1,2,3 years in the Mainstream Media and you will find the following.

Every Day or Week <u>The FBI and Homeland Security</u> Announce One More Thing Is Defined As An Act Of Terrorism

- Feeding the poor you're a Terrorist
- Giving money to a homeless person you're a Terrorist
- Buying Fresh Cows Milk from a Farmer you're a Terrorist
- Having a home veggie Garden you're a Terrorist
- Having a few chickens you're a Terrorist
- Stocking up on Food you're a Terrorist
- Buying Camping Gear you're a Terrorist
- Buying Alternative Medicines you're a Terrorist
- Reading Alternative News you're a Terrorist
- Downloading music you're a Terrorist
- Speaking out against Government Corruption you're a Terrorist.

The list goes on and on and on what the **FBI and Homeland Security** are doing is.

A) Pushing the boundaries as far as possible for the STATE (Government) under these Terrorism Laws to listen to it (Criminalize Anything and Everything) the Government wants to Criminalize all in one go.

Which will turn ordinary citizens into Criminals which will be feed through this "(New Corporations Prison System)" to be sold off to the Fortune 500 – 1, 000 Companies to produce and manufacture their "Goods, Products and Services"

B) This will be the second part of the agenda of the consumerism society which is being created at the present time.

All Good, Products and Services will come from

- (I) Countries like China and other countries where people work for a pittance in wages.
- (II) They will be produced by Prisoners in the Prisons sold off there by the State (Government) Criminalizing all activity by citizens as Terrorist thus feeding them into that system having a all round supply of slave Labour.
- (III) Getting a normal job either working in Government or Private Enterprise.
- (IV) Brown shirts Police, Military, Intelligence Agencies who will <u>"Police Society"</u> as they are doing now, or will be the enforcers for the <u>"New Criminalizing of All</u> Citizens Activities" under these Terrorism Laws.





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This is their Economic Model for Productivity of how they are going to move Australia ahead in the future, by going down the 19 Century American History of a "Prison System" selling Australians, forcing Australians into becoming and declaring them criminals to be feed into the system for the Corporations.

Believe it or Not?

<u>As For America – United States Of America</u> Our Brothers and Sisters

As for our friends over in America, many of us have been trying to work out what all these FEMA Camps some 300 Federal FEMA Camps were all about, now I am pretty sure we all know the answer now.

The State Governments over in America run the Prison System, leasing and selling them to Private Corporations for the above what i just said.

And the below what your about to read happens now and has happened in the past. US President Barrack Obama Democrat or who ever comes in after him a Republican or Democrat doesn't matter they have all signed onto the system I talk about above.

Seems the Federal Government in America want to introduce a similar system to the States, with these "New FEMA Camps" where the Prisoners locked up and declared Terrorist and Criminals at a drop of a hat.

Will be sold off to some of the Fortune 500 – 1,000 Companies to <u>"Create Manufacture, Produce"</u> all the Corporations / Companies <u>"Goods, Services and Products Cheaply"</u> for them to make money off the slave labour which these Prisoners will be forced to make.

There is no way for me to say the following, unless I offend some people.

But I will say it <u>"WAKE UP DOPES"</u> do you really think so many Companies and Corporations donated \$700 Million to help elect US President Barrack Obama to Office for nothing?

They are all going to want something in return

And by setting up this above system again like it operated successfully over the years in America, will be a <u>"Win, Win, Win Big Pay Off For Them"</u>

Believe it or Not?

Anyway don't believe me, you read a bit of history and you will see clearly the <u>"Whole System"</u> being built and set up in All Western Countries as we speak now.

Getting Paid 93 Cents a Day in America? Corporations Bring Back the 19th Century

Nearly a million prisoners are working in call centres, working in slaughterhouses, or manufacturing textiles while getting paid somewhere between 93 cents and \$4.73.



Sweatshop labour is back with a vengeance. It can be found across broad stretches of the American economy and around the world.

Penitentiaries have become a niche market for such work.

The <u>privatisation of prisons</u> in recent years has meant the creation of a small army of workers too coerced and right less to complain.

Prisoners, whose ranks increasingly consist of those for whom the legitimate economy has found no use, now make up a virtual brigade within the <u>reserve army of the unemployed</u> whose ranks have ballooned along with the U.S. incarceration rate.

The <u>Corrections Corporation of America</u> and <u>G4S</u> (formerly Wackenhut), two prisons privatises, <u>sell inmate labour</u> at sub minimum wages to Fortune 500 corporations like Chevron, Bank of America, AT&T, and IBM.

These companies can, in most states, lease factories in prisons or prisoners to work on the outside.

All told, nearly a million prisoners are now making office furniture, working in call centres, fabricating body armour, taking hotel reservations, working in slaughterhouses, or manufacturing textiles, shoes, and clothing, while getting paid somewhere between 93 cents and \$4.73 per day.

Rarely can you find workers so pliable, easy to control, stripped of political rights, and subject to martial discipline at the first sign of recalcitrance -- unless, that is, you travelled back to the nineteenth century when convict labour was commonplace nationwide.

Indeed, a sentence of "confinement at hard labour" was then the essence of the American penal system.



NEWS YOU WON'T FIND ON CNN OR FOXNEWS

More than that, it was one vital way the United States became a modern industrial capitalist economy -- at a moment, eerily like our own, when the mechanisms of capital accumulation were in crisis.

A Yankee Invention

What some historians call "the long Depression" of the nineteenth century, which lasted from the mid-1870s through the mid-1890s, was marked by frequent panics and slumps, mass bankruptcies, deflation, and self-destructive competition among businesses designed to depress costs, especially labour costs.

So, too, we are living through a twenty-first century age of panics and austerity with similar pressures to shrink the social wage.

Convict labour has been and once again is an appealing way for business to address these dilemmas.

Penal servitude now strikes us as a barbaric throwback to some long-lost moment that preceded the industrial revolution, but in that we're wrong.

From its first appearance in this country, it has been associated with modern capitalist industry and large-scale agriculture.

And that is only the first of many misconceptions about this peculiar institution.

Infamous for the brutality with which prison labourers were once treated, indelibly linked in popular memory (and popular culture) with images of the black chain gang in the American South, it is usually assumed to be a Southern invention.

So apparently atavistic, it seems to fit naturally with the retrograde nature of Southern life and labour, its economic and cultural underdevelopment, its racial caste system, and its desperate attachment to the "lost cause."

As it happens, penal servitude -- the leasing out of prisoners to private enterprise, either within prison walls or in outside workshops, factories, and fields -- was originally known as a "Yankee invention."

First used at Auburn prison in New York State in the 1820s, the system spread widely and quickly throughout the North, the Midwest, and later the West.

It developed alongside state-run prison workshops that produced goods for the public sector and sometimes the open market.

A few Southern states also used it.

Prisoners there, as elsewhere, however, were mainly white men, since slave masters, with a free hand to deal with the "infractions" of their chattel, had little need for prison.

The Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery would, in fact, make an exception for penal servitude precisely because it had become the dominant form of punishment throughout the free states.

Nor were those sentenced to "confinement at hard labour" restricted to digging ditches or other unskilled work; nor were they only men.

Prisoners were employed at an enormous range of tasks from rope- and wagon-making to carpet, hat, and clothing manufacturing (where women prisoners were sometimes put to work), as well coal mining, carpentry, barrel-making, shoe production, house-building, and even the manufacture of rifles.

The range of petty and larger workshops into which the felons were integrated made up the heart of the new American economy.

Observing a free-labour textile mill and a convict-labour one on a visit to the United States, novelist Charles Dickens couldn't tell the difference.

State governments used the rental revenue garnered from their prisoners to meet budget needs, while entrepreneurs made outsized profits either by working the prisoners themselves or subleasing them to other businessmen.

Convict Labour in the 'New South'

After the Civil War, the convict-lease system metamorphosed.

<u>In the South</u>, it became ubiquitous, one of several grim methods -- including the black codes, debt peonage, the croplien system, lifetime labour contracts, and vigilante terror -- used to control and fix in place the newly emancipated slave.

Those "freedmen" were eager to pursue their new liberty either by setting up as small farmers or by exercising the right to move out of the region at will or from job to job as "free wage labour" was supposed to be able to do.

If you assumed, however, that the convict-lease system was solely the brainchild of the apartheid all-white "Redeemer" governments that overthrew the Radical Republican regimes (which first ran the defeated Confederacy during Reconstruction) and used their power to introduce Jim Crow to Dixie, you would be wrong again.

In Georgia, for instance, the Radical Republican state government took the initiative soon after the war ended. And this was because the convict-lease system was tied to the modernizing sectors of the post-war economy, no matter where in Dixie it was introduced or by whom.

So convicts were leased to coal-mining, iron-forging, steel-making, and railroad companies, including Tennessee Coal and Iron (TC&I), a major producer across the South, especially in the booming region around Birmingham, Alabama.

Prisoners then mined more than a quarter of the coal coming out of Birmingham's pits.

By the turn of the century, TC&I had been folded into J.P. Morgan's United States Steel complex, which also relied heavily on prison labourers.

All the main extractive industries of the South were, in fact, wedded to the system.

Turpentine and lumber camps deep in the fetid swamps and forest vastnesses of Georgia, Florida, and Louisiana commonly worked their convicts until they dropped dead from overwork or disease.

The region's plantation monocultures in cotton and sugar made regular use of imprisoned former slaves, including women.

Among the leading families of Atlanta, Birmingham, and other "New South" metropolises were businessmen whose fortunes originated in the dank coal pits, malarial marshes, isolated forests, and squalid barracks in which their unfree peons worked, lived, and died.

Because it tended to grant absolute authority to private commercial interests and because its racial make-up in the post-slavery era was overwhelmingly African-American, the South's convict-lease system was distinctive.

Its caste nature is not only impossible to forget, but should remind us of the unbalanced <u>racial profile of America's bloated prison population</u> today.

Moreover, this totalitarian-style control invited appalling brutalities in response to any sign of resistance: whippings, water torture, isolation in "dark cells," dehydration, starvation, ice-baths, shackling with metal spurs riveted to the feet, and "tricing" (an excruciatingly painful process in which recalcitrant prisoners were strung up by the thumbs with fishing line attached to overhead pulleys).

Even women in a hosiery mill in Tennessee were flogged, hung by the wrists, and placed in solitary confinement.

Living quarters for prisoner-workers were usually rat-infested and disease-ridden.

Work lasted at least from sunup to sundown and well past the point of exhaustion.

Death came often enough and bodies were cast off in unmarked graves by the side of the road or by incineration in coke ovens.

Injury rates averaged one per worker per month, including respiratory failure, burnings, disfigurement, and the loss of limbs.

Prison mines were called "nurseries of death."

Among Southern convict labourers, the mortality rate (not even including high levels of suicides) was eight times that among similar workers in the North -- and it was extraordinarily high there.

The Southern system also stood out for the intimate collusion among industrial, commercial, and agricultural enterprises and every level of Southern law enforcement as well as the judicial system.

Sheriffs, local justices of the peace, state police, judges, and state governments conspired to keep the convict-lease business humming.

Indeed, local law officers depended on the leasing system for a substantial part of their income.

(They pocketed the fines and fees associated with the "convictions," a repayable sum that would be added on to the amount of time at "hard labour" demanded of the prisoner.)

The arrest cycle was synchronized with the business cycle, timed to the rise and fall of the demand for fresh labour.



County and state treasuries similarly counted on such revenues, since the post-war South was so capital-starved that only renting out convicts assured that prisons could be built and maintained.

There was, then, every incentive to concoct charges or send people to jail for the most trivial offences: vagrancy, gambling, drinking, partying, and hopping a freight car, tarrying too long in town.

A "pig law" in Mississippi assured you of five years as a prison labourer if you stole a farm animal worth more than \$10.

Theft of a fence rail could result in the same.

Penal Servitude in the Gilded Age North

All of this was only different in degree from prevailing practices everywhere else: the sale of prison labour power to private interests, corporal punishment, and the absence of all rights including civil liberties, the vote, and the right to protest or organize against terrible conditions.

In the North, where 80% of all U.S. prison labour was employed after the Civil War and which accounted for over \$35 billion in output (in current dollars), the system was reconfigured to meet the needs of modern industry and the pressures of "the long Depression."

Convict labour was increasingly leased out only to a handful of major manufacturers in each state.

These textile mills, oven makers, mining operations, hat and shoe factories -- one in Wisconsin leased that state's entire population of convicted felons -- were then installing the kind of mass production methods becoming standard in much of American industry.



NEWS YOU WON'T FIND ON CHIN OR FOXNEWS

As organized markets for prison labour grew increasingly oligopolistic (like the rest of the economy), the Depression of 1873 and subsequent depressions in the following decades wiped out many smaller businesses that had once gone trawling for convicts.

Today, we talk about a newly "flexible economy," often a euphemism for the geometric growth of a precariously positioned, insecure workforce.

The convict labour system of the nineteenth century offered an original specimen of perfect flexibility.

Companies leasing convicts enjoyed authority to dispose of their rented labour power as they saw fit.

Workers were compelled to labour in total silence.

Even hand gestures and eye contact were prohibited for the purpose of creating "silent and insulated working machines."

Employers and the prison authorities ostensibly shared supervision of prison labour.

In fact, many businesses did continue to conduct their operations within prison walls where they supplied the materials, power, and machinery, while the state provided guards, workshops, food, clothing, and what passed for medical care.

As a matter of practice though, the foremen of the businesses called the shots.

And there were certain states, including Nebraska, Washington, and New Mexico that, like their Southern counterparts, ceded complete control to the lessee.

As one observer put it, "Felons are mere machines held to labour by the dark cell and the scourge."

Free market industrial capitalism, then and now, invariably draws on the aid of the state.

In that system's formative phases, the state has regularly used its coercive powers of taxation, expropriation, and in this case incarceration to free up natural and human resources lying outside the orbit of capitalism proper.

In both the North and the South, the contracting out of convict labour was one way in which that state-assisted mechanism of capital accumulation arose.

Contracts with the government assured employers that their labour force would be replenished anytime a worker got sick, was disabled, died, or simply became too worn out to continue.

The Kansas Wagon Company, for example, signed a five-year contract in 1877 that prevented the state from raising the rental price of labour or renting to other employers.

The company also got an option to renew the lease for 10 more years, while the government was obliged to pay for new machinery, larger workshops, a power supply, and even the building of a switching track that connected to the trunk line of the Pacific Railway and so ensured that the product could be moved effectively to market.

Penal institutions all over the country became auxiliary arms of capitalist industry and commerce.

Two-thirds of all prisoners worked for private enterprise.

Today, strikingly enough, government is again providing <u>subsidies</u> and tax incentives as well as <u>facilities</u>, utilities, and free space for corporations making use of this same category of abjectly dependent labour.

The New Abolitionism

Dependency and flexibility naturally assumed no resistance, but there was plenty of that all through the nineteenth century from workers, farmers, and even prisoners.

Indeed, a principal objective in using prison labour was to undermine efforts to unionise, but from the standpoint of mobilized working people far more was at stake.

Opposition to convict labour arose from workingmen's associations, oriented-oriented political parties, journeymen unions, and other groups, which considered the system an insult to the moral codes of egalitarian republicanism nurtured by the American Revolution.

The spectre of proletarian dependency haunted the lives of the country's self-reliant handicraftsmen who watched apprehensively as shops employing wage oriented began popping up across the country.

Much of the earliest of this agitation was aimed at the use of prisoners to replace skilled workers (while unskilled prison oriented was initially largely ignored).

It was bad enough for craftsmen to see their own livelihoods and standards of living put in jeopardy by "free" wage oriented.

Worse still was to watch unfree oriented do the same thing.

At the time, employers were turning to that captive prison population to combat attempts by aggrieved workers to organize and defend themselves.

On the eve of the Civil War, for example, an iron-moulding contractor in Spuyten Duyvil, north of Manhattan in the Bronx, locked out his unionised workers and then moved his operation to Sing Sing penitentiary, where a labourer cost 40 cents, \$2.60 less than the going day rate.

It worked, and Local 11 of the Union of Iron Workers quickly died away.

Worst of all was to imagine this debased form of work as a model for the proletarian future to come.

The workingman's movement of the Jacksonian era was deeply alarmed by the prospect of "wage slavery," a condition inimical to their sense of themselves as citizens of a republic of independent producers.

Prison oriented was a sub-species of that dreaded "slavery," a caricature of it perhaps, and intolerable to a movement often as much about emancipation as unionisation.

All the way through the Gilded Age of the 1890s, convict oriented continued to serve as a magnet for emancipatory desires.

In addition, prisoners' rebellions became ever more common - in the North particularly, where many prisoners turned out to be Civil War veterans and dispossessed working people who already knew something about fighting for freedom and fighting back.

Major penitentiaries like Sing Sing became sites of repeated strikes and riots; a strike in 1877 even took on the transplanted Spuyten Duyvil iron-moulding company.

Above and below the Mason Dixon line, political platforms, protest rallies, petition campaigns, legislative investigations, union strikes, and boycotts by farm organizations like the Farmers Alliance and Grange cried out for the abolition of the convict-lease system, or at least for its rigorous regulation.

Over the century's last two decades, more than 20 coalmine strikes broke out because of the use of convict miners.

The Knights of Oriented, that era's most audacious oriented movement, was particularly exercised.

During the Coal Creek Wars in eastern Tennessee in the early 1890s, for instance, TC&I tried to use prisoners to break a miners' strike.

The company's vice-president noted that it was "an effective club to hold over the heads of free labourers."

Strikers and their allies affiliated with the Knights, the United Mine Workers, and the Farmers Alliance launched guerilla attacks on the prisoner stockade, sending the convicts they freed to Knoxville.

When the governor insisted on shipping them back, the workers released them into the surrounding hills and countryside. Gun battles followed.

The Death of Convict Leasing

In the North, the prison abolition movement went viral, embracing workers' organizations, sympathetic rural insurgents, and prisoners, but also widening circles of middle-class reformers.

The newly created American Federation of Oriented denounced the system as "contract slavery."

It also demanded the banning of any imports from abroad made with convict oriented and the exclusion from the open market of goods produced domestically by prisoners, whether in state-run or private workshops.

In Chicago, the construction unions refused to work with materials made by prisoners.

By the latter part of the century, in state after state penal servitude was on its way to extinction.

New York, where the "industry" was born and was largest, killed it by the late 1880s.

The tariff of 1890 prohibited the sale of convict-made wares from abroad. Private leasing continued in the North, but under increasingly restrictive conditions, including Federal legislation passed during the New Deal.

By World War II, it was virtually extinct (although government-run prison workshops continued as they always had).

At least officially, even in the South it was at an end by the turn of the century in Tennessee, Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi.

Higher political calculations were at work in these states.

Established elites were eager to break the inter-racial alliances that had formed over abolishing convict leasing by abolishing the hated system itself.

Often enough, however, it ended in name only.

What replaced it was the state-run chain gang (although some Southern states like Alabama and Florida continued private leasing well into the 1920s).

Inmates were set to work building roads and other infrastructure projects vital to the flourishing of a mature market economy and so to the continuing process of capital accumulation.

In the North, the system of "hard oriented" was replaced by a system of "hard time," that numbing, brutalizing idleness where masses of people extruded from the mainstream economy are pooled into mass penal colonies.

The historic link between oriented, punishment, and economic development was severed, and remained so... until now.

Convict Leasing Rises Again

"Now," means our second Gilded Age and its aftermath.

In these years, the system of leasing out convicts to private enterprise was reborn.

This was a perverse triumph for the law of supply and demand in an era infatuated with the charms of the free market.



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On the supply side, the U.S. holds captive 25% of all the prisoners on the planet: 2.3 million people.

It has the <u>highest incarceration rate</u> in the world as well, a figure that began skyrocketing in 1980 as Ronald Reagan became president.

As for the demand for oriented, since the 1970s American industrial corporations have found it increasingly unprofitable to invest in domestic production.

Instead, they have sought out the hundreds of millions of people abroad who are willing to, or can be pressed into, working for far less than American workers.

As a consequence, those back home -- disproportionately African-American workers -- who found themselves living in economic exile, scrabbling to get by, began showing up in <u>similarly disproportionate numbers</u> in the country's rapidly expanding prison archipelago.

It didn't take long for corporate America to come to view this as another potential foreign country, full of cheap and subservient oriented -- and better yet, close by.

What began in the 1970s as an end run around the laws prohibiting convict leasing by private interests has now become an industrial sector in its own right, employing more people than any Fortune 500 corporation and operating in 37 states.

And here's the ultimate irony: our ancestors found convict oriented obnoxious in part because it seemed to prefigure a new and more universal form of enslavement.

Could its rebirth foreshadow a future ever more unnervingly like those past nightmares?



Today, we are being reassured by the president, the mainstream media, and economic experts that the Great Recession is over, that we are in "recovery" even though most of the recovering patients haven't actually noticed significant improvement in their condition.

For those announcing its arrival, "recovery" means that the mega-banks are <u>no longer on the brink</u> of bankruptcy, the stock market has made up lost ground, corporate profits are <u>improving</u>, and notoriously unreliable employment numbers have improved by several tenths of a percent.

What accounts for that peculiarly narrow view of recovery, however, is that the general costs of doing business are falling off a cliff as the economy eats itself alive?

The recovery being celebrated owes thanks to local, state, and Federal austerity budgets, the starving of the social welfare system and public services, rampant anti-union campaigns in the public and private sector, the spread of sweatshop oriented, the coercion of desperate unemployed or underemployed workers to accept lower wages, part-time work, and temporary work, as well as the relinquishing of healthcare benefits and a financially secure retirement -- in short, to surrender the hope that is supposed to come with the American franchise.

Such a recovery, resting on the stripping away of the hard won material and cultural achievements of the past century, suggests a new world in which the prison-oriented archipelago could indeed become a vast gulag of the downwardly mobile.





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